

Assemblyman
PAUL KORETZ
Forty-second Assembly District



proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 23, 2006

Contact: Sandra DeBourelando
(916) 319-2042
(916) 712-5250 (cell)

**KORETZ CALLS ON BUSH ADMINISTRATION, CONGRESS
TO ABANDON PUBLIC LAND SALE**

~ Federal budget should not be balanced on the back of California's Natural Resources

(Sacramento) - Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood) and members of the State Assembly have formally requested that the Bush administration abandon any proposal to sell public land to balance the Federal Budget.

This action follows President Bush's February 10th proposal to sell more than \$1 billion in public lands over the next decade to help fund the rural schools program. In California, over 85,000 acres in the Angeles, San Bernardino, Sequoia, and Sierra forests are targeted for sale, not to mention nine other regions in Northern California.

"To sacrifice our public park lands for private profit would be an ill-advised and irresponsible shift in federal land management policy," said Koretz in a twenty-six signature letter to Interior Secretary Gale Norton. "This land is vital to this state's identity, and its economy. Our diverse park system draws tourists from all over the world who delight in its magnificence."

"I have grave concerns regarding the policy implications of this proposal. Is the Bush administration asking us to open our public lands to developers, timber interests, and oil and gas developers? I am very concerned that this is just another end run by the Republicans to curry favor with special interests under the guise that rural schools need funding," remarked Assemblyman Koretz.

In addition to Senator Diane Feinstein's objection of this proposal, other states including Oregon and New Mexico are mounting aggressive campaigns to prevent the sell-off of their natural resources.

###